

TIVERTON CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Regular meeting minutes: September 12, 2007

1: Call to order

Chairman Cecil Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm at the Tiverton Town Hall.

Members present: Laura Epke, Diane Harris, Richard Joslin, Bob Koohy, Cecil Leonard, Frank Marshall, Ray Medeiros, Deb Pallasch

Members absent: Stanley Zeramby

2: Approval of minutes

Amendment to the minutes noted by Frank Marshall.

Motion made by L. Epke to approve minutes as amended for August 8, 2007.

Motion seconded by R. Medeiros. Motion passed unanimously.

Agreed by Commission that the minutes for the meeting will be sent via email to all members before the next meeting for review purposes only. Any changes and discussion would be made at the next regular meeting of the body. The upcoming meeting agenda will also be sent via email.

3. Organizational discussion re: mission and goals

A mission statement prepared by Frank Marshall was distributed to all members. Motion was made by D. Pallasch and seconded by D. Harris to approve mission statement as prepared by Mr. Marshall. Motion passed unanimously.

Commission had a general discussion of how proposals will be written, agreeing that this task will need to be divided among all commission members. It was also generally agreed that we did not want to put forth “numerous” proposals for changes to the Charter. Chairman Leonard noted that all written proposals would be forwarded to the solicitor for review before the Commission presented them to the Town Council.

Commission unanimously agreed that in accordance with voter wishes that we “have to make at least one proposal to replace the Financial Town Meeting.” In accordance with that goal, it was agreed that all present would pick a town and

investigate that town's process for establishing the budget. Each member will present preliminary findings at the Commission's next meeting. Towns selected were as follows:

- Jamestown - C. Leonard
- Portsmouth - F. Marshall
- Barrington – D. Harris
- S. Kingstown – D. Pallasch
- Little Compton – Ray Medeiros
- Hopkinton – L. Epke
- Massachusetts town – R. Joslin
- Burrillville – B. Koohy

4. Establish dates for other boards/commissions input

An organizational chart was distributed by the Chair to aid in this discussion.

Chair also distributed an email from Ginger Lacy proposing establishment of a Historical Commission in Charter. Proposal will be considered at a later date.

Substantial discussion regarding dates surrounding inviting all boards and commission to comment regarding Charter changes ensued. The Commission agreed that May 21, 2007 would be the tentative date by which the Charter Review Commission would complete all work needed before forwarding its recommendations to the Town Council. L. Epke suggested a sub-committee be formed, using that date, to schedule future times for all boards and commissions to be heard. Commission unanimously agreed and L. Epke and F. Marshall agreed to prepare said calendar for the next meeting.

Council member Hannibal Costa suggested that two possible dates in November be scheduled for the Town Council, as the September 26th date originally assigned was not possible. Council Chair, Louise Durfee, also communicated the unavailability of the Town Council for the September date to Chairman Leonard. Commission agreed to reschedule and sub-committee will work on dates. It was further agreed by Commission that the Board of Canvassers would be invited to attend the September 26, 2007 meeting now that the Town Council would not be available. Board of Canvasser's Chairman Jim Rego indicated that tentatively the date would be fine, pending a meeting of his whole Board.

It was noted that based upon feedback from the initial invitation letter that there was some confusion as to what we were looking for with regard to comments and

suggestions from the groups. It was agreed unanimously by the Commission that we would leave it up to the individual boards to determine if they would like to comment as a group or if they would prefer to comment as individuals, or both. D. Pallasch and C. Leonard would rework the letter and present it at the next meeting

5. Other Business

Press release announcing officers and mission to be written by R. Joslin was discussed. Mr. Joslin would write the release and distribute the following week.

Mr. Joslin also agreed to contact Cox to research the possibility of taping meetings.

6. Adjournment

The Commission's September 12, 2007 regular meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Minutes recorded and compiled by Deborah Pallasch, Secretary.